

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2281

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: UK PRESS REACTION TO THE EC'S GLOBAL APPROACH
TO THE MTN

1. THE BRITISH QUALITY PRESS HAS ASSESSED THE PROSPECTS
FOR THE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE GLOBAL
APPROACH WHICH THE EC COUNCIL ADOPTED ON JUNE 26.
COMMENT RANGED FROM OPTIMISTIC ("THE TIMES") TO
PESSIMISTIC (THE FT).

2. IN AN EDITORIAL OF JUNE 27, "THE TIMES" SAID THAT
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THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION HAS IN GENERAL BEEN LEFT VAGUE,

BUT THAT IS NATURAL AT THE START OF A NEGOTIATION. "AS NONE OF THE NINE WAS ENTIRELY SATISFIED IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A FAIR COMPROMISE. AT ALL EVENTS, WHAT MATTERS IS THE GENERAL LINE, WHICH IS POSITIVE AND REASONABLY CONSTRUCTIVE."

3. AFTER DESCRIBING THE COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON AGRICULTURE AND ON THE LINK BETWEEN THE TRADE AND MONETARY NEGOTIATIONS, THE "TIMES" CONCLUDED THAT THE COMMUNITY "HAS GIVEN THE UNITED STATES AN EARNEST OF ITS GOOD INTENTIONS, AND SUFFICIENT REASON TO CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE TRADE BILL. THINGS MAY GO WRONG IN WASHINGTON, NOT JUST BECAUSE OF WATERGATE, BUT FOR OTHER PROTECTIONIST REASONS. THE COMMUNITY, ANYWAY, HAS DONE ITS BEST."

4. THE ISSUE OF "THE ECONOMIST" WHICH APPEARED ON JUNE 29 SAID THAT THE FINAL TEXT OF THE GLOBAL APPROACH "CRAMPS THE COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE AND SEVERELY LIMITS IN GENERAL WHAT IT MAY ACCEPT ON THE COMMUNITY'S BEHALF." IT GOES ON TO SAY THAT "THERE ARE FEW PRESENTS FOR THE AMERICANS TO EASE THE PASSAGE OF THEIR TRADE BILL THROUGH CONGRESS."

5. "THE FINANCIAL TIMES" WAS MORE PESSIMISTIC. IN AN EDITORIAL OF JUNE 28, WHICH WAS MAINLY DEVOTED TO THE US TRADE DEFICIT IN MAY, THE FT SAID: "THERE IS CLEARLY A WIDE GAP AT PRESENT BETWEEN THE CONCESSIONS WHICH THE EEC IS PREPARED TO MAKE ON THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT AND THOSE WHICH THE US WOULD LIKE TO SECURE. THIS GAP WOULD HAVE LOOKED LESS FORMIDABLE IF THE PRESIDENT'S RELATIONS WITH CONGRESS HAD BEEN BETTER. GIVEN WATERGATE, IT MUST REMAIN DOUBTFUL WHETHER CONGRESS WILL PASS THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION IN TIME, AND STILL MORE DOUBTFUL WHETHER IT WILL ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATION THE DISCRETION TO NEGOTIATE ON WHICH SUCCESS DEPENDS."

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